

RICAT

Rhode Island Council
on Assistive Technology



Fact Sheet

RICAT Council Members

Chair - Jeanne Panarace

Florence Adeni-Awosika

John Benevides - Vice Chair

Kerri Cicione

Kevin Cronin

Harry Dunbar

Patricia Feeley

Kathleen Fresher-Samways

Richard Gaffney

Margaret Hoyer

Emily Lennon

Joseph Murphy

Robert Perrello

Charles Pollock

Ronald Racine

William Robinson

Ying Sun

Adrienne Varner

Jill Waller

Kim Wennermark

Edmond Zuromski

***Regina Connor, ATAP
Project Director***

***Raymond Carroll,
ORS Administrator***

What is RICAT? *RICAT*, the RI Council on Assistive Technology, is the advisory body to the RI project funded through the Assistive Technology Act (“Tech Act”). *RICAT* is actively involved in legislative and other initiatives that will increase the access to assistive technology for Rhode Islanders.

RICAT Mission Statement:

"RICAT...promoting and supporting availability of assistive technology for people with disabilities."

Some accomplishments are:

- ♦ A working partnership with the Rhode Island project, Assistive Technology Access Partnership (ATAP), to remove barriers to assistive technology for individuals with disabilities.
- ♦ Collaborated with RI legislature to become the first state in the national legislation requiring statewide availability of Braille and tactile ballots in all elections.
- ♦ Helped pass the RI “Lemon Law” (Assistive Technology Device Warranties Act).
- ♦ Helped pass the Amendment to the Hearing Aid Fitters & Dealers Legislation expanding consumer protections.
- ♦ Helped design and disseminate a consumer protection brochure “A Guide to Purchasing Hearing Aids in RI”.
- ♦ Helped to expand a RI re-used (recycled) equipment network in Rhode Island.

Rhode Island Council on
Assistive Technology (RICAT)
c/o Office of Rehabilitation Services
40 Fountain Street
Providence, RI 02903

**For further information, contact Regina Connor at
(401) 421-7005 (ext. 390), (401) 421-7016 (TTY) or
www.atap.ri.gov.**

Rhode Island Council on Assistive Technology

How the Council Works

1. Meetings are presided over by the Council Chairperson.
2. The agenda is developed by the Council Chair person in cooperation with the Project Director. Members with items for the agenda should call with suggestions two weeks prior to the meeting.
3. All Council meetings are open to the public. Matters discussed at meetings are not confidential, however, the Council may go into an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.
4. The Council serves as an advisory and oversight committee for the project.
5. The work of RICAT is accomplished through working committees.